

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

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PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

Pending Assembly Bill 1276 (Santiago – Los Angeles) would authorize a minor victim of human trafficking, under the age of 15, to utilize closed circuit television to testify against their alleged perpetrator.

This legislation, if enacted, would prevent the minor victim from the horrors of facing their perpetrator in court and reliving the personal and emotional details of the abuse from which they suffered, which can be particularly traumatic. In addition, some minors are unable to effectively communicate in the presence of their alleged perpetrator, thus diminishing the efforts of prosecutors to effectively prosecute the case.

There is existing Board policy that supports various iterations of legislation meant to protect the victims of human trafficking, while also increasing the severity of punishment against the pimps, johns, and handlers who terrorize this vulnerable population. Furthermore, the County's own Trafficking Integrated Leadership Team and the Sheriff's Human Trafficking Task Force are dedicated to ensuring the County has the tools and resources needed to address this growing criminal activity and provide needed wraparound services for the victims. Enactment of A.B. 1276 or similar legislation meant to protect minors and uphold the validity of the prosecutorial effort would support Los Angeles County's efforts to address and combat human trafficking.

I THEREFORE, MOVE that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors send a five-signature letter to the County's State legislative delegation in support of Assembly Bill 1276 which would authorize a minor, 15 years of age or younger, to testify at trial out of the presence of the defendant and jury by way of closed-circuit television in human trafficking cases.

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MDA:mvb
s/Motions/ProtecttheRightsofHumanTraffickingVictims

MOTION

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

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KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

SOLIS _____